

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 924

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : CASC, MX

SUBJECT : ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS

AT NOGALES: DISCUSSION WITH SONORA STATE

AUTHORITIES

REF: HERMOSILLO 32 AND 39

1. MET LAST NIGHT WITH SONORA SECRETARY GENERAL RAUL ENCINAS ALCANTAR TO INFORM HIM OF DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED REFTELS RPT REFTELS. ENCINAS SUMMONED STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL CESAR TAPIA QUIJADA AND DEPUTY AG SELDNER TO MEETING, IN ORDER TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INVESTIGATE A SITUATION WHICH ENCINAS CHARACTERIZED AS SHAMEFUL FOR SONORA AND MEXICO.

2. AS RESULT OF MEETING, FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY SONORA AUTHORITIES: A) SPECIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY LICENCIADO CASTRO QUINTERO FROM AG'S OFFICE WAS ORDERED TO PROCEED TO NOGALES LAST NIGHT, TO UNDERTAKE FULL INVESTIGATION OF SITUATION AT NOGALES PRISON, AND ALL HAPPENINGS SINCE SUNDAY JANUARY 18; B) ISSUED ORDERS THAT AUTOPSY ON WILLIAM WILLIAMS BE SUSPENDED UNTIL US MEDICAG MEN CAN BE INVITED TO ATTEND; C) WILL ARRANGE FOR IMMEDIATE MEDICAL EXAMINATION BY QUALIFIED OUTSIDE PHYSICIANS OF TOM NEWSOME AND FOUR OTHER PRISONERS (MALE) WHO MAY HAVE BEEN BEATEN BY JUDICIAL POLICE ON SUNDAY EVENING JANUARY 18; D)

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EXPEDITING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF NEWSOME FROM

NOGALES TO HERMOSILLO.

3. SECRETARY GENERAL AND AG ASSURED ME THAT THERE WILL BE NO REPRISALS AGAINST ANY PRISONER, WHETHER AMERICAN OR MEXICAN, FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING INVESTIGATION. IT APPEARS LIKELY FROM THEIR DISCUSSION FRIDAY NIGHT THAT THE NOGALES PRISON DIRECTOR, JOSE BORREGO, WILL BE DISMISSED. ALSO LIKELY THAT THERS WILL BE OTHER CHANGES IN PERSONNEL OF PRISON AND POLICE IN NOGALES, AS RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT. REASON FOR SUSPENDING AUTOPSY ON WILLIAMS UNTIL US PHYSICIANS CAN BE PRESENT GIVEN BY SECRETARY GENERAL AS FOLLOWS: IF IT HAD BEEN HIS SON WHO DIED UNDER SUCH SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, HE WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED BY AN AUTOPSY UNLESS PHYSICIANS HE TRUSTED HAD BEEN PRESENT AND HAD CONCURRED IN THE FINDINGS; HENCE, TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE PUTTING THE WILLIAMS FAMILY TO THE NECESSITY OF HAVING A SECOND AUTOPSY PERFORMED AFTER THEY RECEIVED THE BODY FOR BURIAL, HE FELT US PHYSICIANS SHOULD PARTICIPATE. WITH RESPECT TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF HAMM, MONTGOMERY, SCOBEE (AKA SCOBY OR CESSBY), IRIS CAMYRE, AND NEWSOME, SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT UNDER MEXICAN LAW THE AUTHORITIES HERE HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO ORDER SUCH EXAMINATION, WITH OR WITHOUT CONCURRENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL, WHERE THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION THAT A PRISONER RPT PRISONER HAD BEEN MISTREATED.

4. AT REQUEST OF SECRETARY GENERAL AND AG, CONOFF KCONSUL WELCH) HAS MET WITH SPECIAL DA CASTRO QUINTERO AT NOGALES, SONORA, SATURDAY, JANUARY RPT JANUARY 24. SPECIAL DA AND CONOFF ACCOMPANIED PHYSICIANS TO PRISON EARLY AFTERNOON FOR EXAMINATION OF FIVE AMCIT PRISONERS WHO ALLEGED ABUSE. ONLY TWO, MONTGOMERY AND SCOBEE (AKA SCOBY OR CESSBY) SHOWED TRACES OF BEATING. ALL, INCLUDING THESE TWO VEHEMENTLY DENIED ANY MISTREATMENT, DESPITE PLEAS OF SPECIAL DA THAT THEY TELL TRUTH AND ASSURANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPRISALS. CONOFF ASKED MONTGONERY AND SCOBEE (AKA SCOBY OR CESSBY) IF THEY WERE RETRACTING THEIR WRITTEN ALLEGATIONS, REFERRED TO IN REFEL, THAT THEY HAD BEEN BEATEN. THEY SAID NO. PHYSICIANS NOTED THAT ALL PRISONERS BORE TELL-TALE NEEDLE MARKS OF NARCOTICS USERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IT IS POSSIBLE THEIR DENIAL OF ABUSE DUE TO FEAR THEY WILL BE REFUSED ACCESS TO DRUGS. WILLIAMS AUTOPSY RESCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 26 TO ALLOW TIME TO LOCATE A US PHYSICIAN WHO COULD ATTEND. PATHOLOGY TESTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY QUALIFIED PATHOLOGIST RPT PATHOLOGISTS AT HERMOSILLO, ACCORDING TO SPECIAL DA.

T. SECRETARY GENERAL, ON BEHALF OF STATE OF SONORA, EX-

PRESSED REGRET AND SYMPATHY TO FAMILY OF DECEASED. WE HAVE
ENLISTED ASSISTANCE OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF TUCSON,
ARIZONA IN LOCATING WILLIAMS' RELATIVES, AS MOTHER
HAS APPARENTLY MOVED WITHBUT LEAVING ADDRESS CHANGE.

6. HERMOSILLO NEWSPAPER EL IMPARCIAL OF SATURDAY, JANUARY
RPT JANUARY 24 REPORTS WILLIAMS' DEATH UNDER HEADING QUOTE
SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF ONE OF THE NOGALES ESCAPEES UNQUOTE.
SACKSTEDER

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